AMENDMENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive, comprising:

a first idle regenerator connected to a first serial master device, the first idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the first serial master device via a first input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream;

a second idle regenerator connected to a second serial master device, the second idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the second serial master device via a second input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream;

a third idle regenerator connected to the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators, wherein the third idle regenerator is configured for communicating with the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators; and

a synchronization logic capable of synchronizing data transfers between one of the first idle regenerator and the second idle regenerator, and the third idle generator, wherein the synchronization logic is connected to the first, the second and the third idle regenerators.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, further comprising, an auto detector connected to the first and the second idle

regenerators, wherein the auto detector is configured for controlling data transfers to the first and the second idle regenerators based on the presence of idle characters from the first and the second serial master devices.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 2, wherein the auto detector is configured for switching between the first and the second serial masters.

4. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 3, wherein the auto detector enables communication with a single serial master at a time.

5. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, wherein the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with a serial advanced technology attachment disk drive.

6. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, wherein the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with fibre channel based communication.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, wherein the synchronization logic is configured for providing synchronization for idle character switching.

8. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, wherein the dual porting apparatus is embodied in an application specific integrated circuit.

9. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 1, wherein the dual porting apparatus is integrated with the serial disk drive.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive, comprising:

a first idle regenerator connected to a first serial master device, the first idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the first serial master device via a first input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream;

a second idle regenerator connected to a second serial master device, the second idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the second serial master device via a second input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream;

a third idle regenerator connected to the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators, wherein the third idle regenerator is configured for communicating with the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators;

a synchronization logic capable of synchronizing data transfers between one of the first idle regenerator and the second idle regenerator, and the third idle generator, wherein the synchronization logic is connected to the first, the second and the third idle regenerators; and

an auto detector connected to the first and the second idle regenerators, wherein the auto detector is configured for controlling data transfers to the first and the second idle regenerators based on the presence of idle characters from the first and the second serial master devices.

11. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with a serial advanced technology attachment disk drive.

12. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the auto detector enables communication with a single serial master at a time.

13. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with fibre channel based communication.

14. (presently presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the synchronization logic is configured for providing synchronization for idle character switching.

15. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the dual porting apparatus is embodied in an application specific integrated circuit.

16. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 10, wherein the dual porting apparatus is integrated with the serial disk drive.

17. (currently amended) An apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive, comprising:

a first means for regenerating an idle character stream, connected to a first serial master device, wherein the first idle generating means is configured for transmitting and receiving signals to and from the first serial master device via a first input/output (I/O) connection;

a second means for regenerating an idle character stream, connected to a second serial master device, wherein the second idle generating means is configured for transmitting and receiving signals to and from the second serial master device via a second input/output (I/O) connection;

a means for communicating serial disk drive data connected to the serial disk drive, the drive communication means being connected to the first and the second idle data stream means, wherein the drive communication means is configured for generating an idle data stream; and

a means for synchronizing communications between the first and the second idle regenerating means and the disk drive communication means.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 17, further comprising an automatic detector means configured for controlling the enabling of the first and the second idle regenerating means based on the presence of idle characters.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 18, wherein the automatic detector means enables a single idle regeneration means at a time.

20. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 17, wherein the apparatus is suitable for utilization with a serial advanced technology attachment disk drive.

21. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 17, wherein the dual porting apparatus is suitable for utilization with fibre channel based communication.

22. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 17, wherein the apparatus is embodied in an application specific integrated circuit.

23. (currently amended) An apparatus for dual porting a serial advanced technology attachment disk drive for utilization in fibre channel based communication, comprising:

a first idle regenerator connected to a first serial master device, the first idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the first serial master device <u>via a first input/output (I/O) connection, the signals</u> including an idle character stream;

a second idle regenerator connected to a second serial master device, the second idle regenerator being configured for receiving and transmitting signals to the second serial master device via a second input/output (I/O) connection, the signals including an idle character stream;

a third idle regenerator connected to the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators, wherein the third idle regenerator is configured for communicating with the serial disk drive and the first and second idle regenerators;

a synchronization logic configured for synchronizing data transfers between one of the first idle regenerator and the second idle regenerator, and the third idle generator, wherein the synchronization logic is connected to the first, the second and the third idle regenerators; and

an auto detector connected to the first and the second idle regenerators, wherein the auto detector is configured for controlling data transfers to the first and the second idle regenerators based on the presence of idle characters from the first and the second serial master devices.

24. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 23, wherein the auto detector enables communication with a single serial master at a time.

25. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 23, wherein the dual porting apparatus is embodied in an application specific integrated circuit.

26. (original) The apparatus for dual porting a serial disk drive of claim 23, wherein the dual porting apparatus is integrated with the serial disk drive.